



Deposition of:  
**Asset Management Professionals hearing**  
*October 19, 2021*

In the Matter of:  
**Asset Management Professionals, LLC**

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ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

IN RE:

ASSET MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS, LLC

DOCKET NO. 22682

\* \* \* \* \*

TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS before the  
Honorable Luke Bentley, Administrative Law  
Judge, at the Carl L. Evans Chief Administrative  
Law Judge Hearing Complex, RSA Union Building,  
100 North Union Street, Suite 900, Montgomery,  
Alabama, on Tuesday, October 19, 2021,  
commencing at approximately 10:00 a.m.; and  
reported by Stacey L. Johnson, Certified Court  
Reporter and Commissioner for the State of  
Alabama at Large.

\* \* \* \* \*

APPEARANCES

FOR THE APPLICANT:

Brian Hamilton  
3871 Pine Lane  
Suite 400  
Bessemer, Alabama 35022

FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chad Mason  
Scott Morris  
100 North Union Street  
RSA Union Building  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Chris Howell  
501 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 300152  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0152  
334.242.4262

ALSO PRESENT:

William Vaughan

\* \* \* \* \*

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## Respondent's

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## Staff's

Exhibit 1 email chain 20

Exhibit 2 email chain 24

(Respondent's Exhibit 1A was retained.)

1 THE COURT: Let's go on the  
2 Record.

3 It's October 19, 2021, and  
4 we're here for a Show Cause Hearing  
5 in Docket 22682, which concerns  
6 Respondent Asset Management  
7 Professionals, LLC. I'm going to  
8 refer to the Respondent as AMP, if  
9 that's okay.

10 AMP is a water utility  
11 pursuant to Alabama Code Section  
12 37-4-17 and subject to regulation by  
13 the Commission.

14 An order of the Alabama  
15 Public Commission dated September 15,  
16 2021, identified the following  
17 apparent failures by AMP to comply  
18 with the Alabama law or Commission  
19 regulations: First, AMP failed to  
20 file annual reports with the  
21 Commission for the years 2019 and  
22 2020 as required by Alabama Code  
23 Section 37-1-58.

1           Second, AMP has failed to  
2           maintain its plant facilities and  
3           equipment in good operating condition  
4           as required by Alabama Code Section  
5           37-1-49.

6           Third, AMP failed to post  
7           signage to indicate the location of  
8           its isolation valves as required by  
9           Rule 21 of the Commission's water  
10          rules.

11          Given these apparent  
12          failures to comply with Alabama law  
13          and a Commission regulation, the  
14          September 15, 2021, Commission order  
15          directed AMP to appear at today's  
16          hearing to demonstrate good cause why  
17          its certificate of convenience and  
18          necessity should not be revoked.  
19          This order also provided public  
20          notice of today's hearing.

21          The Commission received  
22          notice of intervention from the  
23          Alabama attorney general's office on

1           September 29, 2021. That  
2           intervention is recognized, and I  
3           appreciate your participation in this  
4           matter.

5                     Let's go ahead and take  
6           appearances and state your name and  
7           your address and who you're  
8           representing. And we'll start with  
9           the Respondent.

10                    MR. HAMILTON: Brian Hamilton.  
11           My address is 3871 Pine Lane,  
12           Suite 400, Bessemer, Alabama 35022,  
13           and I'm with Asset Management  
14           Professionals.

15                    THE COURT: Thank you,  
16           Mr. Hamilton.

17                             Attorney general's office?

18                    MR. HOWELL: Chris Howell,  
19           Alabama attorney general's office,  
20           here on behalf of Intervener Alabama  
21           attorney general.

22                    THE COURT: Thank you,  
23           Mr. Howell.

1 And Commission staff?

2 MR. MASON: Chad Mason  
3 representing Commission staff.

4 THE COURT: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Mason.

6 Is there anyone else that  
7 needs to enter an appearance?

8 MR. VAUGHAN: If I may, my name  
9 is Bill Vaughan. I'm with Waggoner  
10 Engineering. We're a consulting  
11 engineer retained by Asset Management  
12 Professionals to support operations.

13 THE COURT: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Vaughan.

15 MR. VAUGHAN: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Anyone else?

17 Let the Record reflect that  
18 no one else has come forward.

19 I would like to point out  
20 that this matter has been listed  
21 under the same docket as a previous  
22 owner of this water system, so some  
23 of the individuals listed on the



1 service list, including a former  
2 owner and an attorney, are not  
3 parties and are not directly involved  
4 in this current matter. One of the  
5 reasons I think it was listed under  
6 that previous docket was AMP's use of  
7 the name Water Works, Inc. So  
8 hopefully sometime during this  
9 hearing, we can clarify the use of  
10 Water Works, Inc.

11 Are there any other  
12 preliminary matters that need to be  
13 addressed?

14 Okay. Today we're going to  
15 start with presentation by Commission  
16 staff. Staff is not prosecuting this  
17 case but rather is providing findings  
18 and giving -- we're going to give AMP  
19 a chance to respond to those  
20 findings. After any witness that  
21 Staff's going to call, you'll have a  
22 chance to ask those witnesses  
23 questions. The attorney general's

1 office will have a chance to ask  
2 questions. And then once Staff is  
3 complete, then you can call your  
4 witness.

5 Also, before we swear any  
6 witnesses in if you would like to  
7 give an opening statement, I'll let  
8 you do that.

9 MR. HAMILTON: Your Honor, I  
10 would.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. HAMILTON: Good morning  
13 to --

14 THE COURT: I'll tell you what,  
15 let's -- since you -- you're not an  
16 attorney, right?

17 MR. HAMILTON: I am not,  
18 representing myself, no.

19 THE COURT: So at this point --  
20 well, who are you going to call as  
21 witnesses? Do you have -- you're  
22 going to be a witness and Mr. Vaughan  
23 or...

1           MR. HAMILTON: Well, I can  
2           certainly question Mr. Vaughan about  
3           the items, and, you know, I think  
4           we're going to attempt to show  
5           substantial progress on the matters  
6           that will be raised by Staff, so  
7           however that works.

8           THE COURT: Here's what I'm  
9           going to do before -- since you are  
10          also a witness -- and sounds like the  
11          primary witness -- and you're not  
12          represented, I'm going to go ahead  
13          and swear you in, and I'll still let  
14          you do an opening statement. But  
15          we'll swear you in and any witnesses  
16          that Commission staff has.

17          (Witnesses sworn.)

18          THE COURT: You can be seated.

19                 At this time, Mr. Hamilton,  
20          you can go ahead and give an opening  
21          statement.

22          MR. HAMILTON: Thank you.

23                 Judge, I just want to, first

1           of all, extend to Staff and all of  
2           you-all who are here today our  
3           apologies for having to, you know,  
4           tie these resources up today to  
5           demonstrate some compliance matters.  
6           We intend to show good faith and  
7           progress on a number of these. We  
8           expect for all of them to be  
9           completed by November the 15th, and  
10          we'll demonstrate that. We've got  
11          some good progress photos to show  
12          you-all. And we're also prepared to  
13          file the annual reports. So  
14          hopefully what we'd like to do this  
15          morning, Your Honor, is to  
16          demonstrate to your and the Court's  
17          and the Staff's satisfaction  
18          substantial progress since the last  
19          notice, so that's what we intend to  
20          do this morning.

21                 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you,  
22                 Mr. Hamilton.

23                         With that, Mr. Mason, you

1           can call your first witness.

2           MR. MASON: Thank you, Your  
3           Honor.

4           Commission staff calls  
5           Mr. David Peeler.

6           THE COURT: And for all the  
7           witnesses, just remember when you're  
8           answering questions that you speak  
9           clearly for the court reporter and  
10          respond with yes and no, not uh-huh  
11          and uh-uh.

12          DAVID PEELER

13          the witness, after having been previously  
14          sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth, and  
15          nothing but the truth, was examined and  
16          testified as follows:

17          DIRECT EXAMINATION

18          BY MR. MASON:

19          Q. Good morning. Please state your name for  
20          the Record.

21          A. I'm David Peeler, P-E-E-L-E-R.

22          Q. And what is your position with Alabama  
23          Public Service Commission?

1 A. I'm a public utilities manager. I work in  
2 the utilities services division.

3 Q. And how long have you been employed with the  
4 Commission?

5 A. Over 35 years.

6 Q. And how long have you been in your current  
7 position?

8 A. In excess of ten years.

9 Q. All right. Thank you. Now we're going to  
10 move on to annual reports.

11 Are utilities regulated by the  
12 Commission required to file annual reports?

13 A. Yes, sir. State Code Section 37-1-58 states  
14 that they should within 90 days of the end  
15 of their fiscal or calendar year, whichever  
16 is the effect -- in this case, it's a  
17 calendar year basis -- they should file an  
18 annual report which should give us  
19 understanding of their assets and their  
20 income and expenses for the previous year.

21 Q. I think you already stated it, but when did  
22 AMP's fiscal year for 2019 end?

23 A. December 31, 2019.

1 Q. And when was AMP supposed to file its annual  
2 report by for 2019?

3 A. It should have been filed by March 31st of  
4 '20.

5 Q. Did they file by that date?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. And has AMP filed as of today?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. When did AMP's fiscal year for 2020 end?

10 A. It would be December 31, 1920 -- I mean  
11 2020. Excuse me.

12 Q. And what date was it -- were AMP -- were  
13 they supposed to file for 2020?

14 A. By March 31, 2021.

15 Q. Did AMP file by that date?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Have they filed --

18 A. Not that I'm aware of --

19 Q. -- as of today?

20 A. -- no, sir.

21 MR. MASON: Thank you.

22 That's all I have,

23 Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Hamilton, any  
2 questions for Mr. Peeler?

3 MR. HAMILTON: No, sir, we don't  
4 dispute any of the questions.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you,  
6 Mr. Peeler.

7 Mr. Mason, you can call your  
8 next witness.

9 MR. MASON: Staff now calls  
10 Mr. Terry Jackson.

11 HUBERT TERRY JACKSON  
12 the witness, after having previously been  
13 duly sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth,  
14 and nothing but the truth, was examined and  
15 testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. MASON:

18 Q. Good morning.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. Please state your name for the Record.

21 A. Hubert Terry Jackson.

22 Q. What is your position with the Alabama  
23 Public Service Commission?



1 A. I am a public utility field technician  
2 senior.

3 Q. How long have you been with the Commission?

4 A. I've been here just a little over 24 years.

5 Q. And how long have you been in your current  
6 position?

7 A. About a little -- we're getting close to  
8 eight years, seven and a half.

9 Q. And inspections are -- in part of water  
10 utilities -- is part of your job  
11 description?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Describe what you typically do during an  
14 inspection.

15 A. What I do is I go out -- because a lot of  
16 stuff is buried -- but I go out and I will  
17 visually inspect anything that is -- you can  
18 see above ground, pumps, lines, tanks, stuff  
19 of this nature, to determine the condition  
20 that it's in and make sure that if there's  
21 anything that applies to PSC rules that they  
22 are -- go along with PSC rules and industry  
23 standards.

1 Q. And have you ever inspected the facilities  
2 of AMP?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you recall how many times you've  
5 inspected?

6 A. I believe about six times.

7 Q. Do you send any type of documentations prior  
8 to?

9 A. Yes, I do.

10 Q. What do you send?

11 A. I use email in order to identify the date,  
12 the time, the place that an inspection is to  
13 take place, and with that, I attach a  
14 questionnaire that is applicable to water  
15 utilities, just specific questions of  
16 what -- how is the plant -- what is it  
17 comprised of.

18 Q. What is the purpose of the questionnaire?

19 A. Well, the purpose of the questionnaire  
20 really is to help me see before I get on  
21 site anything that I can, if I have any  
22 question, and also it will give me an  
23 advance notice so I'm not out there

1           stumbling around when I am -- arrive.

2       Q.   Did you send a questionnaire prior to any of  
3           your inspections of AMP?

4       A.   Yes, I did.

5       Q.   Is it fair to assume that you sent it all  
6           six times?

7       A.   Yes.

8       Q.   Did you ever receive any responses to your  
9           questionnaire?

10      A.   About three times.

11      Q.   So three out of the six?

12      A.   Three out of six, yeah.

13      Q.   Okay. All right. So I believe you  
14           inspected AMP prior to 2020, correct?

15      A.   Yes.

16      Q.   Okay. So I'm -- but I'm primarily going to  
17           focus on 2020 and beyond.

18      A.   All right.

19      Q.   Did you perform an inspection in 2020 of AMP  
20           facilities?

21      A.   Yes, I did.

22      Q.   When?

23      A.   It was October the 8th, 2020, I believe.

1 Q. And what were your findings?

2 A. I actually found a water leak at a  
3 customer's meter, something that I had seen  
4 prior to. There were no signs or markers  
5 indicating the location of isolation valves.  
6 I -- a couple of questions that I asked,  
7 which were not write-ups but I brought them  
8 up at that time, was the estimated water  
9 loss of the system, the gallons-per-minute  
10 capacity of the well pump, and the dimension  
11 of the storage tank that they have. And  
12 this is all for informational purposes  
13 because I didn't have it in my records.

14 MR. MASON: And, Your Honor, I  
15 have some email chains. I can enter  
16 them as an exhibit if you'd like, or  
17 I can just pass them out so everybody  
18 is kind of aware of what Mr. Jackson  
19 is talking about. It doesn't --  
20 whatever you've like to do.

21 THE COURT: If you're going  
22 to -- let's go ahead and enter them  
23 as an exhibit.

1 MR. MASON: May I approach?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 Q. What you have is going to be Commission's  
4 Exhibit 1. That's an email dated December  
5 7, 2020, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you send an email on November 4, 2020,  
8 after the inspection?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. Why did you send that email?

11 A. The purpose of that email was to remind  
12 Water Works South that I had asked a couple  
13 of questions that I hadn't received a  
14 response to yet and that I needed a response  
15 as soon as possible because I have internal  
16 reports that I have to file.

17 Q. And did you ask for a specific date?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What date did you request?

20 A. I believe it was 6 November.

21 Q. Did you receive a response by that date?

22 A. No.

23 Q. I think you've already mentioned it but just

1 to reiterate, at your October 2020  
2 inspection, did you find any discrepancies  
3 regarding the isolation valves?

4 A. Yes. According to Alabama Public Service  
5 Commission water rules, you're required to  
6 put signs out to -- for anybody to be able  
7 to see where your valves may be in case  
8 they're -- needed to be used, and there were  
9 none.

10 Q. And did AMP state when it would have signage  
11 posted?

12 A. They stated in their -- yeah, in their  
13 December 7th letter here that they would  
14 expect to have them -- they would be posted  
15 by January 31, 2021.

16 Q. All right. Let's move on to 2021. Did you  
17 inspect AMP facilities anytime in 2021?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. When?

20 A. It was about June, June time frame, maybe  
21 the 26th.

22 Q. Just June?

23 A. It was the end of June.

1 Q. That's fine. Was anyone there when you  
2 arrived?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Why not?

5 A. There was a disconnect. I'll have to say  
6 the -- we changed the dates two or three  
7 times of the inspection, and it ended up on  
8 a Monday. On a Saturday, I was informed --  
9 Mr. Vaughan sent an email saying that his  
10 wife needed his assistance because of a  
11 doctor's visit, which was all well and good.  
12 It's understandable. I just don't work on  
13 Saturday, so I didn't see the email. So I  
14 drove to Talladega for fun.

15 Q. Were you able to do the inspection anyway?

16 A. Not like I prefer, but, yes, I did.

17 Q. But you did do an inspection?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you find any discrepancies on that?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. What were they?

22 A. The inspections I found -- or the  
23 discrepancies I found on that day were the

1 pump house roof had significant damage to  
2 it -- that was the first thing -- inside.  
3 And I had pictures of it and everything too.  
4 There was one to two inches of water on the  
5 floor. It's hard to see that in the  
6 pictures that I had, but it was reflective  
7 and you could tell there was water sitting  
8 inside there.

9 Outside of the building -- I went  
10 around -- riding around a little bit --  
11 there was two customer meter bases that were  
12 missing their inspection cover, a little  
13 cover right in the center that they open up  
14 to check the meter with. And they were  
15 missing those, which would be a safety  
16 hazard for one thing. There was excessive  
17 corrosion on the water pipes inside the pump  
18 house. When rust starts building up and  
19 your paint starts peeling off, that's an  
20 indication that you're a little behind due  
21 of preventative maintenance. And, of  
22 course, again, the markers, the signs for  
23 the isolation valves, couldn't be found.



1 Q. And that was after the January 31 --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- 2021, date?

4 A. Yes.

5 MR. MASON: Your Honor, I have  
6 one more exhibit. That's another  
7 email chain between Commission staff  
8 and AMP. May I approach?

9 THE COURT: You may.

10 Q. What you have before you is Exhibit 2.  
11 That's an email dated August 31, 2021, from  
12 AMP, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Was that in response to correspondence from  
15 you regarding your previous inspection?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was that email canceling your follow-up  
18 inspection?

19 A. In essence, yes, that's what they did.

20 Q. Why did they cancel?

21 A. The cancellation was due solely to the fact  
22 that they had done nothing to date to  
23 correct the discrepancies.

1 Q. Did they indicate when any discrepancies  
2 would be --

3 A. They said in the email that they hoped to  
4 have it done by the end of the year.

5 Q. And did they indicate in any way in which  
6 they would fix the discrepancies?

7 A. I didn't get a plan of action or anything  
8 that I could follow up with them on to see  
9 if they've done this or that, so, no, there  
10 wasn't.

11 MR. MASON: Thank you.

12 That's all I have,  
13 Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: You wanted to move  
15 for these emails to be Exhibits 1 and  
16 2, correct?

17 MR. MASON: Yes, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: So they're -- these  
19 are Exhibits 1 and 2 subject to  
20 cross-examination.

21 Mr. Hamilton, do you have  
22 any questions of Mr. Jackson?

23 MR. HAMILTON: Your Honor, I do

1 not.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Howell, I'm  
3 sorry I missed you first time around.  
4 Do you have any questions?

5 MR. HOWELL: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Anything else,  
7 Mr. Mason?

8 MR. MASON: That's it, Your  
9 Honor.

10 Mr. Jackson, you can be  
11 excused.

12 And, Mr. Hamilton, you can  
13 call your witness, or if you are the  
14 first witness, you can -- I'm not  
15 going to require you to question and  
16 answer. That would be silly. But  
17 you can make a statement and respond  
18 to any of the --

19 MR. HAMILTON: I'd like to do  
20 that. Would you like me to come  
21 here?

22 THE COURT: That would be great,  
23 I think, so that the court reporter

1           can understand what you're saying.

2                   BRIAN HAMILTON

3           the witness, after having first been duly  
4   sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth, and  
5   nothing but the truth, was examined and  
6   testified as follows:

7                   DIRECT EXAMINATION

8   (IN THE NARRATIVE):

9                   THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your  
10   Honor. I -- we don't dispute any of  
11   the facts that --

12                  THE COURT: If you would just --  
13   I know you've already -- just state  
14   who you are and your position.

15                  THE WITNESS: I'm Brian  
16   Hamilton. I'm owner of AMP, and we  
17   don't dispute any of the testimony  
18   this morning.

19                  The one thing I would like  
20   the Court to consider is during the  
21   first quarter of 2020 that's when the  
22   substantial issues associated with  
23   COVID was happening and all the

1 challenges in terms of labor, supply  
2 chain -- I'm not using that as an  
3 excuse -- but one of the things we  
4 wanted to do was make sure that we  
5 did not, you know, impact the quality  
6 of water in terms of what we were  
7 delivering to our customers, along  
8 with making sure that we kept the  
9 cost low. And we did not raise rates  
10 during that time, and, in fact, we  
11 have not raised rates. So it's not  
12 an excuse. I just want folks to  
13 understand that that was going on.

14 We do and are prepared, like  
15 I said in my opening statement, to  
16 file both of those annual reports  
17 today, and I have them with me. We  
18 could submit them electronically or  
19 however it's pleasing to the Court.

20 We do want to demonstrate to  
21 Staff and all interested parties our  
22 maintenance so far, and maybe I can  
23 do that by just asking Mr. Vaughan

1           some questions or however you would  
2           like to do that.

3           THE COURT: Let's finish with  
4           you, make all statements you want to  
5           make.

6           THE WITNESS: Okay.

7           THE COURT: And I'll let Staff  
8           and attorney general ask you  
9           questions, and then after,  
10          Mr. Vaughan can come up.

11          THE WITNESS: Thank you.

12                 So that's the annual report  
13          matter. We think we can get that  
14          cleared up today.

15                 In terms of the roof damage  
16          that has been pointed out, the roof  
17          has been fixed. We have before and  
18          after pictures to share with Staff  
19          today, so hopefully we can get that  
20          cleared up.

21                 Related to the drainage  
22          issues, Mr. Vaughan will talk about  
23          that later, but we have installed

1 additional floor drain piping and  
2 that will be completed. The piping  
3 is in. We've had to cut out a little  
4 bit of the concrete to replace that,  
5 but piping is in. The concrete guy  
6 is out there today. And then we'll  
7 be able to demonstrate that complete  
8 November 15th.

9 In terms of the corrosion on  
10 the piping, we've gotten that  
11 scheduled to start it. We've gotten  
12 the materials purchased. That should  
13 be done by November the 15th. So --  
14 and, again, Mr. Vaughan will talk  
15 through this, but in terms of that,  
16 as you know, Mr. Jackson, there are  
17 some coordination items to make sure  
18 that -- there's a service matter once  
19 we're replacing that piping, so that  
20 should be done. And then, finally,  
21 when you get back out there by  
22 November 15th, we'll have those two  
23 new doors on those two properties.

1                   So, again, we are incredibly  
2                   sorry about having to come here today  
3                   to demonstrate this, and so I want to  
4                   extend that to -- everybody is  
5                   dealing with the pandemic, so we know  
6                   that. And hopefully, as we  
7                   demonstrate this morning, that will  
8                   be satisfactory to Staff and to the  
9                   Court. So that's the balance of my  
10                  statement.

11                 THE COURT: Mr. Mason?

12                 CROSS-EXAMINATION

13         BY MR. MASON:

14         Q.     Mr. Hamilton, I appreciate that, I  
15                 appreciate your update, and I appreciate you  
16                 being here today. I just have a couple of  
17                 questions.

18                 Did you receive the Commission order  
19                 dated September 15, 2021, regarding the Show  
20                 Cause Hearing?

21         A.     Yes, sir.

22         Q.     And have you had a chance to review it?

23         A.     I have.



1 Q. So in there it states a couple code  
2 sections, 37-1-58, 37-1-49. Are you aware  
3 of your statutory obligations laid out in  
4 the Commission's order?

5 A. I am.

6 Q. Are you aware of the Commission's water  
7 rules?

8 A. I am.

9 Q. And general rules?

10 A. I am.

11 Q. And if -- you know, if you need a copy or  
12 anything like that, they're on our website.  
13 You know, I just want to encourage, you  
14 know, open dialogue. If you have something  
15 like an inspection with things that need to  
16 be done, you know, I would encourage you to  
17 reach out to the Commission staff and --  
18 whether it's Mr. Jackson or Mr. Peeler  
19 regarding your annual reports or myself or  
20 if you need to file something with the  
21 secretary's office, you can always do that.

22 A. Yes, sir. And Mr. Peeler and Staff have  
23 been great walking through any issues that

1           we've ever had. They've been very  
2           responsive. So this is on us. This is not  
3           on you.

4   Q.   Well, I appreciate that.

5                   MR. MASON: And that's all I  
6           have, Your Honor.

7                   THE COURT: Attorney general's  
8           office?

9                   CROSS-EXAMINATION

10   BY MR. HOWELL:

11   Q.   Mr. Hamilton, do I understand you correctly  
12           that you attribute your reporting issues and  
13           maintenance issues solely to the effects of  
14           the COVID-19 pandemic? You have no other  
15           reason or explanation for the dilatory  
16           nature of these actions or inactions --

17   A.   That's correct.

18   Q.   -- other than --

19   A.   That's correct.

20   Q.   What's changed? The pandemic's still --

21   A.   We --

22   Q.   The pandemic is still occurring,  
23           labor/material shortages are still in place.

1           What's different now that you've received  
2           the Show Cause Order that was prohibiting  
3           you from complying previous to receiving the  
4           Show Cause Order?

5       A.    So we've added some additional staff and  
6           then the administrative folks are back in  
7           the office, so that's what's different.  So  
8           we've had a skeleton crew handling all of  
9           our administrative matters.  So everybody's  
10          remote, everything's electronic, and it's  
11          just lack of communication.  So now that  
12          we've got folks back in the office, we're  
13          back in a rhythm, so we don't expect these  
14          administrative matters to persist.

15       Q.   And you're saying you have additional staff,  
16           not just your previous staff who are --

17                       (Simultaneous cross-talk.)

18       A.    Yeah, we -- we have one additional  
19           administrative person.

20       Q.    You anticipate hiring further staff to -- or  
21           do you feel like your needs are addressed  
22           now with staffing?

23       A.    I think we're fine.

1 MR. HOWELL: That's all I have,  
2 Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay. I heard you  
4 mention November 15th several times.  
5 I would like to establish something  
6 on the Record here for a timeline for  
7 you to complete all these things.

8 Are you representing that  
9 you will be finished with -- all the  
10 problems laid out in the Show Cause  
11 Order, you will be complete with  
12 those and can provide documentation,  
13 either something you provide the  
14 Commission board with the follow-up  
15 inspection by the Commission? Is  
16 that what you're representing today?

17 MR. VAUGHAN: Yes, sir.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, yes, that's  
19 what we're representing.

20 MR. VAUGHAN: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Mason, is that  
22 an acceptable --

23 MR. MASON: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: -- timeline?

2 Anything else for

3 Mr. Hamilton?

4 MR. HOWELL: No, sir,

5 THE COURT: You're excused.

6 You're going to call

7 Mr. Vaughan?

8 MR. HAMILTON: I think he was  
9 just going to repeat what we have,  
10 but he does have some photographs. I  
11 think he would -- I think we just  
12 want to show --

13 THE COURT: Let's see them. If  
14 you call Mr. Vaughan, he can provide  
15 some photographs, that would be  
16 helpful.

17 MR. HAMILTON: Do I ask him  
18 questions or can he just talk, or  
19 what do you think -- I can ask him  
20 questions.

21 THE COURT: Ask him some  
22 questions. I think I would prefer  
23 that.

1 WILLIAM VAUGHAN

2 the witness, after having previously been  
3 duly sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth,  
4 and nothing but the truth, was examined and  
5 testified as follows:

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. HAMILTON:

8 Q. Mr. Vaughan, state your name for the Record  
9 again.

10 A. Bill Vaughan with Waggoner Engineering,  
11 consulting engineer retained by Asset  
12 Management Professionals.

13 Q. Are you familiar with the maintenance issues  
14 that we discussed this morning?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Could you talk generally about the roof  
17 issue that was laid out last --

18 A. I'll talk generally and specifically. I've  
19 got photographs here, just one set. Should  
20 I hand them to you? Should I approach?

21 MR. HAMILTON: Do we need to be  
22 formal like that?

23 THE WITNESS: We're businessmen

1           and engineers. We don't know the  
2           process here, but we're glad to  
3           provide whatever information you  
4           want.

5           MR. HAMILTON: We can enter  
6           them.

7           THE COURT: Let's enter them as  
8           an exhibit, and then we can make --

9           Let's go off the Record for  
10          a second.

11          (A discussion was held off the  
12          Record.)

13          (Recess from 10:30 a.m. to  
14          10:35 a.m.)

15          THE COURT: Back on the Record.

16          MR. HAMILTON: Your Honor, we'd  
17          like to present Respondent's Exhibit  
18          1, which will include some before and  
19          after photographs. The before  
20          photographs were taken by  
21          Mr. Jackson, and the after  
22          photographs are from our field guys  
23          showing work that's been done so far.

1           THE WITNESS: May I say a few  
2 things?

3           THE COURT: Why don't we pass  
4 the -- are you going to talk about  
5 the photographs? Let's pass them out  
6 to Staff and the attorney general's  
7 office.

8       A. May I walk us through what we have?

9       Q. Please.

10      A. So the first picture is a picture of the old  
11 roof, and the three pictures thereafter show  
12 work in progress and completion of the new  
13 roof. So the new roof has been done.

14           THE COURT: You said pictures of  
15 the old roof. Are we talking about  
16 the -- I have one page --

17           THE WITNESS: This one right --

18           THE REPORTER: Hold on. Hold  
19 on. One at a time.

20           THE COURT: In general, as you  
21 walk through these, why don't you  
22 describe the picture so I can make  
23 sure I'm looking at the same thing.



1 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

2 THE COURT: Because of the size,  
3 it could be helpful. This is a very  
4 small picture.

5 THE WITNESS: Very small  
6 picture.

7 MR. MORRIS: You may want to  
8 number these for ease of reference.

9 (Reporter asks for clarification.)

10 THE COURT: He's Scott Morris  
11 with the Commission staff.

12 Before we go through these  
13 pictures, why don't you -- let's just  
14 number these -- this was Respondent's  
15 Exhibit 1, so we'll just say the  
16 first one is 1-A and go through like  
17 that as you talk about them.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

19 THE COURT: And then describe it  
20 so I'll know what I'm working on, 1-B  
21 or whatever, so I'll know we're all  
22 on the same page.

23 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

1           THE COURT: So 1-A is a before  
2           picture that was taken by  
3           Mr. Jackson?

4           THE WITNESS: Yes, with the  
5           small little picture in the middle.  
6           That's 1-A. That is the picture of  
7           the roof before any repairs started.

8       A.   And 1-B is the one with the ladder in it,  
9           that shows work in progress for the roof  
10          replacement.

11          And 1-C, which is a side view without  
12          the door, it shows the roof has been  
13          replaced.

14          MR. MASON: It's a metal roof?

15          MR. HAMILTON: Yes.

16          THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

17       A.   And 1-D is a roof replacement picture. It's  
18           the one that has the door shown in it. So  
19           two pictures, 1-C and 1-D, that shows the  
20           new roof. Again, we intend that to be  
21           confirmation of the roof replacement. All  
22           of these items in the order are extremely  
23           important. Some are more costly than

1 others, and we approach them in that order.  
2 We want to get the big ones done first to  
3 satisfy the Commission, and the roof has  
4 been done. That's the most expensive one  
5 and number one on the list. It's also, at  
6 least in part, contributory to the water on  
7 the floor, a small amount, but nonetheless,  
8 so we wanted to get that done as well for  
9 operational reasons.

10 Another part of the contribution to the  
11 water on the floor was a bad drainage pipe  
12 that needed to be replaced, so we had to  
13 replace that entire drain line and the drain  
14 itself. It required busting up some  
15 concrete. We're making progress on that as  
16 well. It's not complete, but it is  
17 underway.

18 Picture 2-A is the one with the white  
19 drain shown in the floor and the concrete  
20 cutting.

21 And 2-B shows the drain line work in  
22 progress. Again, we intend that to serve as  
23 confirmation that we're making progress on

1 the next expensive item, and that is the  
2 drain. We fix the drain, we fix the  
3 standing water problem.

4 Corrosion on the pipes is important as  
5 well in our opinion, and based on that of  
6 the operator and our assessment, there's not  
7 been impact on the structural integrity, if  
8 you will, the ability of the pipe to serve  
9 its job. It needs to be scraped with a  
10 metal brush, primed, and painted. We're in  
11 process.

12 Okay. What we have here is -- in  
13 picture -- I'm sorry -- there's a valve  
14 shown. That is 3-A.

15 And the next one with the pipe stand  
16 and more valves is 3-B. That, I guess,  
17 evidences our agreement that some pipe work  
18 needs to be done. That's where we're going  
19 to do it.

20 Just for the Record, the pump house is  
21 probably two-thirds the size of the bench,  
22 so a very small building, not a whole lot of  
23 pipe in it, but we're in progress now and

1 getting started on the scraping and the  
2 priming and the painting.

3 Those are all the pictures I have.

4 There are two water meter box tops that  
5 have the inspection valves missing.

6 THE WITNESS: Those have been  
7 ordered; is that right, Brian, those  
8 have been ordered?

9 MR. HAMILTON: Not yet.

10 A. Not yet ordered, but they'll be in place by  
11 November 15th.

12 The painting of the piping in the pump  
13 house will be completed by November 15th.

14 The isolation valve postings will be in  
15 place by November 15th.

16 THE WITNESS: That is all, sir.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 Mr. Mason?

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. MASON:

21 Q. So I understand correctly --

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. -- for the signage --

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. -- that has not been ordered yet? Is that  
3 what you were referring to?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And when do you plan on ordering it?

6 THE WITNESS: Brian, when are  
7 you --

8 MR. HAMILTON: We'll get that  
9 ordered this week.

10 MR. MASON: Just so we're --  
11 November 15th?

12 MR. HAMILTON: Yes, sir.

13 Q. And 2-A and 2-B, which you referred to --

14 A. Drainpipe.

15 Q. -- the piping --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. -- that is going to resolve the standing  
18 water issue?

19 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And then has any work -- so for 3-A and 3-B  
21 for the corrosion, has any work begun, or  
22 are you going to begin that soon?

23 A. I'm not managing that work. I don't -- I've

1 not been asked to manage that work, but the  
2 information I have tells me that we retained  
3 the person who's going to do it.

4 MR. HAMILTON: That's correct.

5 A. And we've got pricing and project scheduling  
6 and all of that. That will be completed by  
7 the 15th of November.

8 Q. So regarding the repair work, is it being  
9 done by employees of AMP or is it a third-  
10 party contractor?

11 A. Third-party contractor.

12 Q. All of it?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Are all materials necessary to make the  
15 repairs available?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 MR. MASON: No further  
18 questions, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Howell?

20 CROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. HOWELL:

22 Q. Just to follow up, we don't have all the  
23 materials quite yet, correct?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And we're still doing some pricing and  
3 getting some labor lined up to get these --

4 A. (Witness nods head.)

5 Q. But you're willing to stand here before the  
6 Court today and say November 15th is a hard,  
7 drop-dead date for these repairs, assuming  
8 you can get your materials, you can get your  
9 labor lined up, and regardless of any  
10 intervening acts or weather becomes bad,  
11 anything else like that, you're willing to  
12 stand on a November 15th deadline as this  
13 repair work will be completed --

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. -- by that date?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 MR. HOWELL: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Anything else,  
19 Mr. Hamilton?

20 MR. HAMILTON: No, sir.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I'll  
22 admit Respondent's Exhibits 1-A  
23 through 1-D, 2-A and B, 3-A and B.



1                   And you're excused.

2                   THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3                   THE COURT: Anything else,  
4                   Mr. Howell?

5                   MR. HOWELL: No, sir.

6                   MR. MASON: Your Honor, I did  
7                   have more thing, one more item.

8                   Regarding the annual  
9                   reports, I believe in 2017 and 2018,  
10                  you mailed those in but never  
11                  actually filed those with the  
12                  Commission, and we're going to -- for  
13                  2019 and 2020 -- we might even want  
14                  to correct 2017 and 2018, make sure  
15                  those are actually filed properly  
16                  with the Commission. And we can work  
17                  with you to help get that done  
18                  properly.

19                  MR. HAMILTON: Okay.

20                  MR. MASON: That's all I have,  
21                  Your Honor.

22                  THE COURT: Thank you,  
23                  Mr. Mason.

1                   Okay. Before we adjourn, I  
2                   just want to make clear, which has  
3                   come up several times, on the Record  
4                   is that -- what I expect from AMP  
5                   is -- and what you've represented you  
6                   will do is by November 15, 2021, that  
7                   you will file with the Commission a  
8                   statement that outlines that you've  
9                   completed all of the issues  
10                  identified in the Show Cause Order.

11                 You understand that?

12                 MR. HAMILTON: I do.

13                 THE COURT: And that if you have  
14                 any issues at all, don't hesitate or  
15                 delay to call Commission staff to  
16                 bring those up in the meantime.

17                 You understand that?

18                 MR. HAMILTON: I do.

19                 THE COURT: And following this  
20                 submission on or before November 15,  
21                 2021, soon after, the Commission  
22                 staff will arrange for an inspection  
23                 of your facilities to ensure that

1           that work has been done and pledge  
2           that you will facilitate that  
3           inspection and allow them to inspect  
4           your facilities?

5           MR. HAMILTON: Absolutely.

6           THE COURT: Am I missing  
7           anything, Mr. Mason?

8           MR. MASON: No, Your Honor.

9           THE COURT: All right. With  
10          that, we're adjourned, and this will  
11          be taken under advisement.

12          Thank you.

13          (Proceedings and testimony  
14          concluded at 10:46 a.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

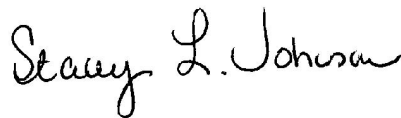
STATE OF ALABAMA

AUTAUGA COUNTY

I, Stacey L. Johnson, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, hereby certify that on October 19, 2021, I reported the testimony and proceedings in the matter of the foregoing cause, and that pages 3 through 50 contain a true and accurate transcription of the examination of said witness by counsel for the parties set out herein.

I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to any of the parties to said cause, nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.

This the 5th day of November, 2021.



STACEY L. JOHNSON, CCR

Commissioner for the

State of Alabama at Large

CCR 386, Expires 9/30/2022

COMMISSION EXPIRES: 6/22/2023

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